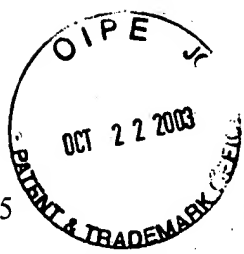


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Izuru NAKAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1732

Appln No : 09/881,769

Examiner: S. Staicovici

Filed : June 18, 2001

For : LASER DRILLING (Title amended by Response filed February 4, 2003)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Final Official Action of April 22, 2003, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on July 22, 2003, and having been extended by the enclosed Request for a (three-month) Extension of Time to expire on October 22, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Final Official Action together with an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending, in due course.

10/23/2003 HDEMESS1 00000055 09881769

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